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# Farm Broadcasters Letter



Letter No. 2022

July 23, 1981

## SOVIET TRADE TALKS COULD START SOON

Sec'y of Agric. John Block told members of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters who were meeting in Washington, D.C. that talks with the Soviet Union about renewing grain trade relations could begin as early as the first part of August. He said, "This period of no trade is damaging to our markets." But he also pointed out that this could be more psychological than anything else.

## NEW ZEALAND MAY BUY U.S. BUTTER

What to do with surplus butter owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation continues to be a challenge for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Sec'y of Agric. John Block told members of the National Milk Producers meeting in Washington that negotiations continue with New Zealand for sale of the butter. He also said he has not totally discounted the possibility of selling the butter to the Soviet Union should the sale to New Zealand fall through. And he also said he is considering the possibility of offering the butter to the highest bidder.

## WORLD OILSEEDS COULD SET NEW RECORD

World oilseed production is now forecast at 174.5 million tons, largely because of a recovery in soybean output. According to a report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, this level of production would be 7 pct. more than last year and 300-thousand tons above the previous record set two years ago.

## NEW RECORD WHEAT CROP IS COMING

This year's wheat crop is forecast to be 2.81 billion bushels big, another new record and one that is almost a fifth larger than last year's record, according to a report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The increase is mainly the result of the largest area ever planted to wheat...88.8 million acres...plus a sharp increase in spring wheat yields from last year's drought-reduced levels. According to USDA economist Allen Schienbein, farm prices for wheat this year will range from \$3.70 to \$4.10 per bushel, perhaps averaging below last year's \$3.96. With such a large crop, exports will be high, perhaps a new record amount of 1.7 billion bushels, according to Schienbein. (Schienbein's phone number is 202-447-8776.)

## JUNE MILK OUTPUT INCREASES AGAIN

Milk production during June totaled 11.6 billion pounds, up 3 pct. over June last year, and continuing the increases for June during the past several years. According to a U.S. Department of Agriculture report, production per cow averaged 1069 pounds. Total milk cows averaged 10.9 million head, 1 pct. above a year ago. (For more information, call 202-447-6351.)

MEDFLY REGS  
MADE PERMANENT

Federal regulations that had been issued on an emergency basis concerning the Mediterranean fruit fly in three California counties have been made permanent, according to a report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Movement restriction, inspection and certification treatment requirements are involved, but only for the three county area. Fruits and vegetables from the rest of the state will continue to move without restriction.

CONSUMERS ASSURED  
ABOUT CALIFORNIA  
PRODUCTS

The administrator of U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Harry Mussman, has issued a statement assuring consumers that California's commercially grown fruit and vegetables are of the same high quality as always. He points out that these products are free of the Mediterranean fruit fly, have not been treated, and are being shipped to out of state markets in the usual high volume. He said also that consumers should not see any increase in supermarket prices because of the Medfly situation.

CATTLE ON FEED  
DOWN 1 PCT.

Cattle and calves on feed July 1 in the 23 major producing states totaled 9.57 million head, down 1 pct. from a year earlier and down 7 pct. from 2 years ago, according to a report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This is the smallest July 1 number on feed since 1975. Placements during the April-June quarter totaled 5.95 million, 6 pct. above the same quarter last year. Marketings of fed cattle for slaughter during April-June totaled 5.59 million, down 1 pct. from the same quarter last year. Cattle feeders expect to market 6.14 million head during the July-September quarter. This would be up 7 pct. from last year. (For more information, call 202-447-6880.)

SOVIET PARASITES  
TO FIGHT U.S.  
PEST

The gypsy moth in the U.S. may have a new enemy. U.S. Department of Agriculture forestry scientists have brought from the Soviet Union a collection of parasitic wasps and flies that may be used to fight gypsy moths in this country. The gypsy moth, which is a native of Europe, seems to be less of a problem in the Ukraine area of the Soviet Union than it is in the U.S. The parasitic wasps and flies were collected in the Ukraine.

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER  
PROGRAM TO BEGIN

A formal agreement has been signed that authorizes a multi-nation effort to eradicate African swine fever from Haiti. Haiti is the only country in North America or the Caribbean where the disease is known to exist. The U.S., Canada and Mexico will provide funds and technical assistance for the eradication program. Ass't Sec'y of Agric. C. W. McMillan said the eradication program will cost at least \$17 million and require up to two years to complete.

NEW MARK  
FOR HORSEMEAT

Horsemeat and other equine meat products that have passed import inspection will be identified with a new emblem. It's a hexagon-shaped inspection mark instead of the more familiar circle mark used for all other types of meat. According to a U.S. Department of Agriculture official, the hexagon-shaped inspection mark will stop the accidental or intentional substitution of horse, mule or other equine meat and meat products for that of other types of animals.

FROM OUR TELEVISION  
SERVICE

Now available. 4:25 minutes (3:30 without open/close)

"The Middle East: Forestry Rehabilitation" ... USDA forester Boyd Post describes the efforts to re-establish forests and timber stands in the arid climate and rocky soil of Syria. Don Elder interviews. (486)

"The Rural Clean Water program" ... ASCS Administrator Everett Rank discusses this program designed to improve community water quality. Don Elder interviews. (487)

"The International Fertilizer Outlook" ... USDA economist Dick Rortvedt comments on the findings of a recent international conference to determine global fertilizer supply and demand for the next five years. Don Elder interviews. (488)

"The Fertilizer Price/Supply Outlook" ... Dick Rortvedt focuses on the domestic outlook for the coming year. Don Elder interviews. (489)

"Grazing on National Forest Lands - II" ... USDA range specialist Ted Russell reviews the provisions and permit requirements for livestock grazing on National Forest land. Don Elder interviews. (490)

INFO ON MARKETING  
ORDERS SOUGHT

A U.S. Department of Agriculture team is seeking public comment on all aspects of federal marketing orders for fruits, vegetables and specialty crops. Team leader Richard Heifner said, "We want comment on the effect on production and size of each commodity industry, costs of marketing, farm price and income levels and stability, product quality, wholesale and retail prices, consumer product knowledge and product choices available." Comments should be sent, by Aug. 1, to: Richard Heifner, USDA-AMS, Rm. 3063-S, Washington, D.C. 20250.

EGGS AND LAYERS  
DOWN SLIGHTLY

Egg production in June totaled 5.56 billion eggs, fractionally less than a year ago, according to a report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The number of layers on July 1 totaled 278 million, 1 pct. fewer than a year earlier. Egg-type chicks hatched in June were down 7 pct. from a year earlier. The June hatch of broiler-chicks was up 3 pct. from June last year. The hatch of turkey poults was up 5 pct. (For more information, call 202-447-2123.)

LAMB AND WOOL  
BOTH INCREASE

The 1981 lamb crop in the U.S. is estimated at 8.88 million head, 8 pct. higher than in 1980 and 11 pct. higher than two years ago, according to a report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Wool production is estimated at 109 million pounds, 4 pct. more than in both 1980 and 1979. (For more information, call 202-447-6880.)

FOOD STAMP  
STATEMENT ISSUED

Sec'y of Agric. John Block met with a group of food stamp recipients in mid-July to discuss concerns about proposed cuts in USDA nutrition assistance programs. Following the meeting, Sec'y Block said, "The last thing we want is for our campaign against fraud, waste and abuse to cast doubts on the average food stamp recipient. In reality, program abuse is a greater threat to the recipients who legitimately need help than it is to anyone else."



OFF MIKE

Some farm broadcasters stayed over a day or so in Washington, D.C. after the NAFB meeting and by so doing experienced one of the nicer days...crisp, cool, less humid. Some who visited Annapolis experienced firsthand one of the sudden thunderstorm downpours by getting soaking wet while their walking tour guide just kept walking and talking. They looked a little bedraggled as they came aboard the Harbor Queen for the social hour trip into Chesapeake Bay. But their spirits were lifted when they lifted their spirits. A goodly number of NAFB'ers and family members were here, close to 300 by last word. Jim Mills (NAFB Sales/Mktng Dir.) maintained his sanity ...but barely...as chairman of the program committee in coping with all the last minute, sudden program changes. All in all a good meeting, according to all those we talked with ... Our thanks to Margaret Desatnik of our staff for writing last week's newsletter. As she mentioned, we were away at the ACE meeting in Michigan where we received a most coveted award, the ACE Radio and Television Award of Excellence ... At the same meeting and receiving an even more prestigious award was Fred Jones (v.p. of Richardson, Meyers & Donofrio, Inc., Baltimore, MD). He received the Reuben Brigham Award, presented by ACE to an ag communicator who has made "major contributions to agriculture at the regional, national or international level." Well deserved, Fred ... Bob Marburger (USDA regional info office, San Francisco) sent two clippings from the Seattle Times. One was a full front page picture and story of the handicapped people who climbed Mt. Rainier and the other clipping contained a large picture of Doug Wakefield (USDA Ag Research Service radio specialist, Wash., D.C.) who was a member of the climbing team. Doug's picture showed him with a microphone taped to his hard hat. He interviewed fellow climbers for National Public Radio. He said sounds of course are important for a blind person and that Mt. Rainier was a pretty noisy mountain ... Whoever left a microphone at the White House briefing call to let us know. We have it.

FROM OUR RADIO  
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1260 (Weekly 13½ min documentary) Before railroads became the main movers of agricultural products, canals did the job. Gary Crawford takes you on a trip down the C&O Canal in the year 1876.

AGRI-TAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1249 (Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Problems with stored grain pests; When canals were king; Another fuel alternative; The battle against the alfalfa weevil.

CONSUMER TIME #742 (Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) The challenge of Mt. Rainier; Household pests; Heart worms--real threat for dogs; Computer games; A Mexican-American 4-H project; Getting the most from your air conditioner.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE - Thurs, July 30, Vegetable situation and outlook report; Fri, July 31, Agricultural prices report; Wed, Aug. 5, Ag. outlook. Dial the USDA National News Lines 202-488-8358 or 202-488-8359. All material changed at 4:30 P.M. EDT each working day. Farmers' 900 Newslines (one 60-second item, 50-cent cost per call)...900-976-0404.



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